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IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

OCTOBER TERM, 1974

No: 74-567

JOSEPH EDWIN PEEL, PETITIONER

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, RESPONDENT

# PETITION OF JOSEPH EDWIN PEEL FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Edward L. Lasof
Attorney for Petitioner
420 Houston Bar Center
Houston, Texas 77002

IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

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TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW Joseph Edwin Peel, Petitioner, and prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the Judgment of The United States Court of Appeals For The Fifth Circuit reversing the judgment of the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division and denying his, petition for rehearing and petition for rehearing en banc in said Court.

## REPORTS OF THE OPINIONS BELOW:

The order of the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas in cause number 73-H-376 dated and entered the 4th day of January, 1974, is reported in 369 F. Supp. 594. The opinion of The United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit in cause number 74-1265 Summary Calendar reversing the trial Court, dated and entered August 5, 1974, is reported in 497 F2d 1369. The opinion of The United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit in cause number 74-1265 denying the petition of Joseph Edwin Peel for rehearing and his petition for rehearing en banc, dated and entered October 17, 1974, is not yet reported. A copy of the Memorandum and Order and the Order of the United States District Court For the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division is found in the Appendix hereto pages A-1 through A-5.

A copy of the opinion of the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit dated August 5, 1974, reversing the trial Court is found in the Appendix hereto, pages A-6 through A-14.

A copy of the letter from the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit indicating the petition of Joseph Edwin Peel for rehearing and the petition for rehearing en banc was denied is found in the Appendix hereto page A-15.

## STATEMENT OF GROUNDS ON WHICH JURISDICTION IS INVOKED

The United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit in cause number 74-1265, Summary Calendar, in an order dated and entered August 5, 1974, reversed a ruling of the United States District Court For The Southern District of Texas, Houston Division dismissing a criminal indictment against Joseph Edwin Peel.

The United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit in cause number 74-1265 in an order dated and entered October 17, 1974, denied the petition for rehearing and petition for rehearing en banc of Joseph Edwin Peel with respect to its judgment of August 5, 1974, wherein it reversed the ruling of the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Jurisdiction of this Court is conferred by Rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of The United States of America, Title 28, United States Code, the applicable portions for granting such a writ being as follows:

"Where a court of appeals has rendered a decision in conflict with the decision of another court of appeals on the same matter; . . .or has decided an important question of federal law which has not been, but should be, settled by this Court; or has decided a federal question in a way in conflict with applicable decisions of this Court; or has so far departed from the accepted and usual course of judicial proceedings, as to call for an exercise of this Court's power of supervision."

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

A. Can an indictment stand, charging assault on "A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" when the applicable United States Statute clearly states that it is an offense to assault "any officer or employee of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs."?

B. Would Article 907(a) of Title 5 of the United States Code and language set forth in a regulation of the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration found in 38 Fed. Reg. 1838 permit such an indictment to stand?

C. Would the failure of a Court to dismiss such an indictment constitute deprivation of the rights of Joseph Edwin Peel without due process of law prohibited by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America?

D. Would permitting the indictment set out above to stand be contrary to the provisions of Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution of The United States of America which stands in part that: "No Bill of

Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed."?

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, STATUTES, AND REGULATION THE CASE INVOLVES

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 111 provides in full as follows:

"Assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers or employees

Whoever forcibly assaults, resists, opposes, impedes, intimidates, or interferes with any person designated in Section 1114 of this title while engaged in or account of the performance of his official duties shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

Whoever in the commission of any such acts uses a deadly or dangerous weapon shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both."

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1114 provides in full as follows:

"Whoever kills any judge of the United States, any United States Attorney, any Assistant United States Attorney, or any United States marshal or deputy marshal or person employed to assist such marshal or deputy marshal, any officer or employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, any officer or employee of the Postal Service, any officer or employee of the secret service or of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, any officer or enlisted man of the Coast Guard, any officer or employee of any United States penal or correctional institution, any officer, employee or agent of the customs or of the internal revenue or any person assisting him in the execution of his duties, any immigration officer, any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or of the Department of the Interior designated by the Secretary of Agriculture or of the Department of the Interior to enforce any Act of Congress for the protection, preservation, or restoration of game and other wild birds and animals any employee of the Department of Agriculture designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out any law or regulation, or to perform any function in connection with any Federal or State program of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, or the District of Columbia for the control or eradication or prevention of the introduction or dissemination of animal diseases, any officer or employee of the National Park Service, any officer or employee of, or assigned to duty in,

the field service of the Bureau of Land Management, any employee of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, or any officer or employee of the Indian field service of the United States, or any officer or employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration directed to guard and protect property of the United States under the administration and control of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, any security officer of the Department of State or the Foreign Service, or any officer or employee of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare or of the Department of Labor assigned to perform investigative, inspection, or law enforcement functions, while engaged in the performance of his official duties, or on account of the performance of his official duties, shall be punished as provided under sections 1111 and 1112 of this title."

Title 5, Section 907(a), United States Code provides in part as follows:

"A statute enacted, and a regulation or other action made, prescribed, issued, granted, or performed in respect of or by an agency or function affected by a reorganization under this chapter, before the effective date of the reorganization, has, except to the extent rescinded, modified, superseded, or made inapplicable by or under authority of law or by the abolition of a function, the same effect as if the reorganization had not been made. However, if the statute, regulation, or other action has vested the functions in the agency from which it is removed under the reorganization plan, the function insofar as it is to be exercised after the plan becomes effective, shall be deemed as vested in the agency under which the function is placed by the plan."

Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973, 1973 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 3554 provides in part as follows: "Sec. 3. Abolition. The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, including the Office of Director thereof is hereby abolished, and Section 3(a) of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1968 is hereby repealed. The Attorney General shall make such provision as he may deem necessary with respect to terminating those affairs of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs not otherwise provided for in this Reorganization Plan."

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The defendant was charged by an indictment in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas along with three other defendants as follows:

"That on or about the 27th day of August, 1973, in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, KEITH STANFORD IRICK, DAVID PAUL KAY, RICHARD NEIL MYERS, and JOSEPH EDWIN PEEL willfully and by use of a deadly and dangerous weapon, that is, a bayonet, did forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, and interfere with ROBERT SUROVEC, A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE while said ROBERT SUROVEC was engaged in the performances of his official duties. (Violation: Title 18, United States Code, Sections 111 and 2)"

Said Section 2 provides as follows:

"a) Whoever commits an offense against the United States or aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces or procures its commission, is punishable as a principal.

b) Whoever willfully causes an act to be done which if directly performed by him or another would be an offense against the United States, is punishable as a principal" and is not pertinent to the questions herein involved.

On October 26, 1973, Joseph Edwin Peel filed his MOTION TO QUASH THE INDICTMENT.

By order dated and filed January 4, 1974, the indictment involving Joseph Edwin Peel, and the three other defendants therein charged, was dismissed by the Honorable James Noel, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.

From this ruling the United States of America appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. By judgment dated and entered August 5, 1974, The United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit reversed the order of the Honorable Judge James Noel dated January 4, 1974. On the 13th day of August, 1974, Joseph Edwin Peel filed his Petition For Rehearing and Petition For Rehearing En Banc in the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. On October 17, 1974, the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit entered its order denying the Petition for Rehearing and the Petition for Rehearing En Banc filed by Joseph Edwin Peel.

On October 23, 1974, Joseph Edwin Peel filed his Petition of Joseph Edwin Peel For Stay Of the Mandate of The United States Court of Appeals For the Fifth Circuit in cause number 74-1265.

On October 24, 1974, by order dated and filed on that date The United States Court of Appeals For the Fifth Circuit ordered the issuance of the mandate of said Court stayed to and including the 16th day of November, 1974.

## ARGUMENT

The indictment charging assault on an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration cannot be allowed to stand. It fails to state an offense.

A look at portions of the legislative history of Section 1114, Title 18, United States Code and its predecessors would be beneficial. The Judiciary Committee of the 73rd Congress 2nd Session, Senate Reports on Public Bills, Etc. I 73rd Congress, Report No. 535, (attached hereto pages A-16 through A-18 of the Appendix) referred to Senate bill 2080 with reference to providing "Punishment For Killing or Assaulting Federal Officers." The recommendation was that "any official or employee of the United States. . ." be covered. The present Section 1114 is not this broad.

The conference committee of the report found in ***House Report On Public Bills***, Etc. III, 73rd Congress, 2nd Session, Report No. 1593 (attached hereto as pages A-19 through A-20 of the appendix) was much more limited, and the existing Section 1114 is much more limited.

In the case of ***J. E. Pierce v United States of America, 314 U. S. 306-313***, (U.S. Supreme Court, 1941), Pierce had been tried and convicted in the trial Court of impersonating, with intent to defraud, an officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States or any Department, or any officer of the government thereof.

Apparently there was some evidence in the trial that Pierce said he represented TVA, a corporate entity. There was a request of the Defendant for a charge that such a representation would not have been a violation of the statute. The case was reversed for the failure to give such a charge. There is some interesting legislative history found in the case wherein a recommendation is made that impersonation of an officer or employee of a government owned corporation be

made an offense. The *Pierce* case reinforces the theory that Section 1114 in its present form, does not cover Special Agent Surovec, an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, whom the government alleges was assaulted, in its indictment.

***Bouie Et. Al v. City of Columbia, 378 U. S. 347-363*** (U. S. Supreme Court 1964) involved a conviction under a South Carolina statute making trespassing after notice prohibiting entry a crime. The South Carolina Supreme Court tortured the statute to include remaining on the premises after being asked to leave, as being an offense. The U. S. Supreme Court reversed the case and in doing so stated as follows:

> "In the last analysis the case is controlled, we think, by the principle which Chief Justice Marshal stated for the Court in *United States v. Wiltberger*, 5 Wheat, 76, 96: 'The case must be a strong one indeed, which would justify a Court in departing from the plain meaning of words, especially in a penal act, in search of an intention which the words themselves did not suggest. To determine that a case is with the intention of a statute, its language must authorize us to say so. It would be dangerous, indeed, to carry the principle, that a case which is within the reason or mischief of a statute, is within its provisions, so far as to punish a crime not enumerated in the statute, because it is of equal atrocity, or of kindred character, with those which are enumerated. . .'
>
> The crime for which these petitioners stand convicted was not enumerated in the statute at the time of their conduct. It follows that they have been deprived of liberty and property without due process of law in contravention of the Fourteenth Amendment."

Applying the strict construction to criminal statutes as required by law would yield the only possible result herein, that is affirmance of the trial Court's dismissal of the indictment.

The United States Court of Appeals, For the Fifth Circuit states that prior to its decision the only other decision involving the issues herein presented was in the case of ***United States v. Hasimar*** 69 Cr. 58 (S.D.N.Y. May 25, 1970) (unreported) a copy of which is attached hereto in the Appendix pages A-21 through A-22. In the ***Hasimar***

case supra the Bureau of Narcotics had been abolished and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs created without a corresponding change in Title 18 U. S. Code, Section 1114. The indictment in the ***Hasimar*** case above was dismissed by the Judge of the District Court who stated: "While the Congress undoubtedly intended to have the provisions of Section 1114 apply to officers and employees of the newly created Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, it failed to do so. Therefore, at the time of the alleged assault, the agents were not designated employees under Section 1114, and the indictment does not state a crime under Section 111."

On August 27, 1973, the date alleged in the indictment against Joseph Edwin Peel, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs had been abolished. On August 27, 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration had been created. On August 27, 1973, Title 18, Section 111 and 1114 made it an offense to assault an officer or employee of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, ***but not an officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration*** as alleged in the indictment against Joseph Edwin Peel.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (not the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs as stated in the opinion of the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit) was established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973. 1973 U. S. Code Cong. and Admin. News 3554. The plan became effective without congressional action on July 1, 1973. It is the contention of the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit that 5 U.S.C.A. Section 907(a) has a bearing on the issues herein. Said Section 907(a) has been set out in part above. Joseph Edwin Peel states that the language of said Section 907(a) would not permit the enlargement of Title 18, Sections 111 and 1114 to include an officer or employee of the Drug Enforcement Administration when Section 1114 fails to list such an agency.

If this were so, then the amendments of Title 18 U.S.C., Section 1114 from time to time, especially the change in designation from Bureau of Narcotics to Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was not necessary. Why then has it been changed periodically?

The application the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit seeks to make of Article 907(a), Title 5 of the United States Code would be in contravention to the provi-

sions of Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution of the United States of America prohibiting bills of attainder or ex post facto laws. Nor would language similar to Title 5, United States Code, Article 907(a) found in a regulation of the Acting Administrator of The Drug Enforcement Administration found in 38 Fed. Reg. 1838, quoted in the opinion of the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit permit the indictment against Joseph Edwin Peel to stand.

Such an application of both Article 907(a) Title 5 U.S.C. and the quoted regulation would mean the creation of a criminal act not expressly prohibited by an existing penal statute, nunc pro tunc.

In ***United States v. Laub,*** 385 U. S. 475 the U. S. Supreme Court held that a statute prohibiting travel without a passport could not be extended to include travel with a passport that was not appropriately endorsed. The Supreme Court states in the ***Laub*** case above: "Crimes are not be created by inference. They cannot be constructed nunc pro tunc."

The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was ***abolished*** by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973. 1973 U S. Code Cong. And Admin. News 3554 effective July 1, 1973. The language of the reorganization plan is as follows: "Sec. 3, Abolition. The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, including the Office of Director thereof is hereby abolished, and Section 3(a) of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1968 is hereby repealed. The Attorney General shall make such provision as he may deem necessary with respect to terminating those affairs of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs not otherwise provided for in this Reorganization Plan." On the 27th of August, 1973, the date of the alleged offense in the indictment against Joseph Edwin Peel, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs listed in Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1114 had been abolished. For this reason the language of Article 907(a), Title 5 United States Code would not broaden Title 18 U.S.C. Sections 111 and 1114 to encompass assault on an officer or employee of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The exception portion of Title 5, Section 907(a) United States Code which states that "a statute enacted and a regulation. . .has except to the extent rescinded,. . . or by the abolition of a function, the same effect as if the reorganiza-

tion had not been made," is applicable. Whether the functions of the abolished Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs could be performed by the Drug Enforcement Administration would not be relevant as to whether assaulting a Drug Enforcement Administration agent is presently or was on August 27, 1973, an offense under Title 18 U.S.C. Sections 111 and 1114.

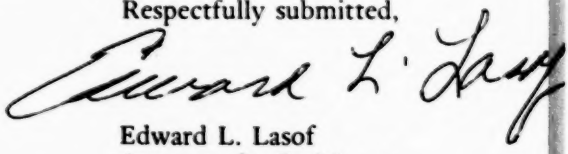
The authors of both the applicable penal statute and administrative order could have selected language which would have left no doubt as to their intentions that Sections 111 and 1114 of Title 18 U.S.C., would apply to a Drug Enforcement administration agent. In Treasury Department Order 221, dated June 6, 1972, found in the Federal Register in Volume 37, No. 113 on Page 11697 there is such clear language. In connection with a reorganization plan creating a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms replacing the functions of the Internal Revenue Service with reference to laws relating to alcohol, tobacco and firearms the order provided in part: "(c) The terms 'internal revenue officer' and 'officer, employee, or agent of the internal revenue' wherever used in such regulations, rules, instructions, and forms, in any law specified in paragraph 2 above, and in 18 U.S.C. 1114 shall include all officers and employees of the United States engaged in the administration and enforcement of the laws administered by the Bureau, who are appointed or employed by, or pursuant to the authority of, or who are subject to the directions, instructions or orders of the Secretary." 18 U.S.C. 1114 provided in part at the time of the creation of this Bureau that "any officer, employee or agent of the customs or of the internal revenue or any person assisting him in the execution of his duties. . ." was covered by the article. The quoted portions of the Treasury Department order 221 makes it clear that a member of the newly created Bureau is to be covered under 18 U.S.C. 1114. The language of Article 907(a) of Title 5 U.S.C. and the applicable administrative order do not yield such coverage to a special agent of the newly created Drug Enforcement Administration, nor can the language found therein be reasonably construed to do so. The only proper way, however, an agent of the newly created Drug Enforcement Administration could be protected, and still give strict construction to a penal statute, would be by amending the penal statute itself, in the case here 18

U.S.C. Sections 111 and 1114.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons set out herein the Petition For Writ Of Certiorari should be in all things granted and a Writ Of Certiorari should issue to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,



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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Edward L. Lasof, attorney for the Petitioner, Joseph Edwin Peel certify that all parties required to be served have been served and I hereby certify that I have served the foregoing Petition For Writ Of Certiorari for the Petitioner, Joseph Edwin Peel upon the Respondent by mailing three copies each, postage prepaid, and air mail where addressed to Washington, D.C., this the 8th day of November, 1974, to counsel for the various parties listed below and to counsel for the Respondent listed below as follows in compliance with Title 28, United States Code, Rule 33, Paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Rules of The Supreme Court of the United States of America:

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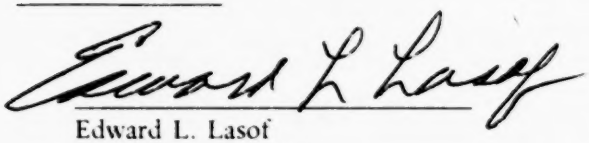

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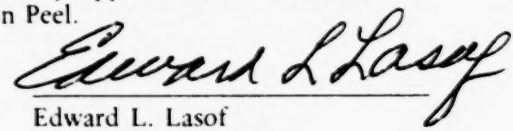
The clerk will enter my appearance as counsel for the petitioner, Joseph Edwin Peel.



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The clerk is requested to notify counsel of action of the court by means of airmail letter.

# APPENDIX

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | ] | |
| v. | ] | Criminal No. 73-H-376 |
| KEITH STANFORD FRICK | ] | |
| DAVID PAUL KAY | ] | |
| RICHARD NEIL MYERS | ] | |
| JOSEPH EDWIN PEEL | ] | |

## MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

In this criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 111, each defendant moves to dismiss the indictment for failure to charge an offense. FED. R. CRIM. P. 12(a). The indictment charges defendants "did forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, and interfere with . . . a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice." Section 111 of Title 18 prohibits such conduct when directed toward any person designated in 18 U.S.C. § 1114. Section 1114 lists numerous groups of federal employees and officers including "any officer or employee . . . of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs." Section 1114 does not name special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Defendants contend the indictment must be dismissed because it does not charge a crime proscribed by Sections 111 and 1114. Because defendants' position is valid, the motion to dismiss must be granted. Defendants also contend that any such statutory construction and application in this case would be unconstitutional. Having disposed of the case on the defendants' first ground of attack, it is not necessary to reach the constitutional question.

The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was abolished and the Drug Enforcement Administration was established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973. 1973 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 912 (March 28, 1973). It became effective July 1, 1973 without Congressional action, 5 U.S.C. § 906. On July 10, 1973, pursuant to Executive Order 11727, July 6, 1973, the Attorney General transferred the function of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs to the Drug

Enforcement Administration by amending the Code of Federal Regulations. 28 Fed. Reg. 18380 (1973). Thus, the Drug Enforcement Administration, its officers and employees, are the successors to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, its officers and employees in function and authority.

Nevertheless, the Congress has not yet amended § 1114 of Title 18 to reflect this change. Consequently on August 27, 1973 when the incident made the basis of this indictment took place, Sections 111 and 1114 proscribed assaults against Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs agents but not against Drug Enforcement Administration agents. The question posed by this case is whether 18 U.S.C. §§ 111, 1114 may be constitutionally construed to apply to employees of a new federal agency which replaces an enumerated agency. The alternative to such construction is the requirement of congressional action before this inclusion can occur.

Both statutory history and a plain reading of Section 1114 demonstrate congressional intent to enact a limited, specific statute. The Senate version of the original bill covered " . . . . any official or employee of the United States." S.R. 535, 73rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1934). The final statute, however, specifically named the officials and employees covered. H.R. 1593, 73rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1934). By subsequent amendment, other groups of federal employees were added.

The statute remains very specific and explicit. The particular groups of federal officials and employees to be covered are enumerated. In some cases, the statute includes all employees of a particular agency, e.g., the secret service. In other cases all federal officials performing a particular function are covered, e.g., any immigration officer, ***Bennett*** v. ***United States***, 285 F.2d 567 (5th Cir. 1960). In many instances, only those employees of named departments who perform particular functions are mentioned, e.g., any officer or employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration directed to guard and protect property of the United States under the administration and control of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The obvious purpose of the statute is to provide the protection of the federal courts to those certain officers. ***United States v. Langione***, 445 F.2d 636, 637 (1st Cir. 1971). Nevertheless, it is clearly not meant to sweep in every inter-

ference with any federal official. ***United States v. Johnson***, 462 F.2d 423, 428 (3rd Cir. 1972).

More importantly in this instance, the statute does not purport to cover successor agencies to those enumerated. Instead, the Congress has regularly amended the statute to reflect changes in agency organization and nomenclature. In 1970, for example, the statute was altered to reflect changes from the Bureau of Narcotics to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. This regular amendment, rather than inclusion in the statute of the words, "successor agencies or officials" or words of like effect, evidence a congressional intention that legislative amendment rather than judicial construction is meant to be the proper means of updating the statute. See ***Pierce v. United States***, 314 U.S. 306 (1941).

A narrow, literal reading of the statute is consistent with general principles of criminal law. See CLARK & MARSHALL, LAW OF CRIMES §1.07 (7th ed. 1967); 21 AM. JUR. 2nd, ***Criminal Law*** §17 (1965); 22 C.J.S., ***Criminal Law*** §17 (1961). The maxim, expressio unius est exclusio alterius (expression of one thing implies exclusion of another) is appropriate here. A court should not depart from the plain meaning of the statutory language. ***United States v. Wiltberger***, 18 U.S. (5 Wheat.) 76, 96 (1820). Also relevant is the principle that penal sanctions are to be strictly construed. ***United States v. Standard Oil Company***, 384 U.S. 224, 255 (1966). The definition of criminal conduct is a legislative rather than judicial function, and the Courts should be reticent to broadly read criminal statutes. ***United States v. Keboe***, Crim. No. 73–H–213 (S.D. Texas Nov. 8, 1973).

The judicial construction and application of Section 1114 urged by the government raises serious constitutional questions which are not required to be answered.[1] Statutes are to be construed so as to avoid a danger of unconstitutionality. ***United States v. Harriss***, 347 U.S. 612, 619 (1954).

The Court concludes that Section 1114 of Title 18 applies only to those departments, agencies, and bureaus specifically named therein. It cannot be construed to apply to employees not named by the statute. This is true even if the group in question is successor to employees named by the statute. Accordingly, the Court holds that 18 U.S.C. §§111, 1114 do not prohibit the conduct alleged in the indictment. Unless and until the Congress acts, the government must rely on the

state penal system to protect special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In the instant case, the defendants' Motions must be GRANTED, and the indictment dismissed.

The Clerk shall file this Memorandum and Order and send copies to all counsel.

DONE at Houston, Texas, this 4th day of January, 1974.

SIGNED: James Noel
Judge

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1. The same result may be constitutionally required. The common law requirement of statutory definiteness and specificity is so fundamental as to be required by due process. *Conally v. General Construction Co.*, 269 U.S. 285 (1926). Judicial construction enlarging a plainly written statute to include conduct not obviously described by the statute is constitutionally impermissible. *Pierce v. United States*, 314 U.S. 306 (1941). Furthermore, application of new judicial interpretations to pending criminal cases challenges the prohibition of ex post facto law. U.S. Const. art. I, §10; *Bouie v. City of Columbia*, 378 U.S. 347 (1964); *Talavera v. Wainwright*, 468 F.2d 1013 (5th Cir. 1972).

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | ] | |
| v. | ] | Criminal No. 73-H-376 |
| KEITH STANFORD IRICK | ] | |
| DAVID PAUL KAY | ] | |
| RICHARD NEIL MYERS | ] | |
| JOSEPH EDWIN PEEL | ] | |

**ORDER**

On this day came on to be heard the Motions of each defendant to Dismiss the Indictment for Failure to Charge an Offense; and the Court, having considered each motion along with the government's response in opposition thereto, has concluded, for reasons expressed in the Memorandum and Order of even date, that each motion must be GRANTED; accordingly,

It is hereby ORDERED and ADJUDGED that this indictment and cause be DISMISSED in all respects as to each and every defendant.

The Clerk shall file this Order and send a copy to each defendant and to counsel for the government.

DONE at Houston, Texas, this 4th day of January, 1974.

Signed: James Noel
Judge

**UNITED STATES of America, Plaintiff-Appellant,**

v.

**Keith Stanford IRICK et al., Defendants-Appellees.**

No. 74–1265
Summary Calendar.*

**United States Court of Appeals,**
**Fifth Circuit.**

Aug. 5, 1974.

Accused filed motions to dismiss indictment charging them with assault of an officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, James L. Noel, Jr., J., 369 F.Supp. 594, granted the motions and the Government appealed. The Court of Appeals, Ainsworth, Circuit Judge, held that under statute providing for continuity of status and function in connection with executive reorganizations, special agents of Drug Enforcement Administration were within ambit of statutes prohibiting assaults against officers of Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Reversed.

1. Assualt and Battery ⇐ 48
Obstructing Justice ⇐ 7

Under statute providing for continuity of status and function in connection with executive reorganizations, officers of Drug Enforcement Administration, which was successor to Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, were within ambit of statutes prohibiting assaults against officers of the Bureau, even though statutes did not specifically refer to the Drug Enforcement Administration. 5 U.S.C.A. §§ 906(a), 907(a); 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 111, 1114.

2. Drugs and Narcotics ⇐45

Fact that Congress had previously amended statute pertaining to protection of federal officers and employees to reflect changes caused by reorganization and had substituted therein the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs for its predecessor did not establish that amendment was necessary to coverage of agents of the Bureau or that the statute was inapplicable to officers of Drug Enforcement Administration, which was the successor to the Bureau, due to absence of specific reference to the Drug Enforcement Administration. 5 U.S.C.A. §§ 906(a), 907(a); 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 111, 1114; Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, §§ 506, 508, 509, 21 U.S.C.A. §§ 876, 878, 879.

3. Drugs and Narcotics ⇐43

There was no constitutional impediment to inclusion of officers and agents of Drug Enforcement Administration within coverage of statute which pertained to protection of certain federal officers and employees and which referred to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, which was the Drug Enforcement Administration's predecessor, even though the statute did not specifically refer to the Drug Enforcement Administration. 5 U.S.C.A. §§ 906(a), 907(a); 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 111, 1114.

4. Assault and Battery ⇐48
Obstructing Justice ⇐7

It is not an element of offense of assaulting, resisting or impeding certain federal officers or employees that person who commits one of the proscribed acts does so with knowledge that his victim is a federal officer or that he knows the specific name of the agency by which victim is employed. 18 U.S.C.A. §§ 111, 1114.

5. Criminal Law ⇐13.1(1)

Persons accused of a crime must be afforded fair warning of prohibited conduct by statute which they are accused of violating.

6. Criminal Law ⇐13(1)

Statute providing for continuity of status and function in

connection with executive reorganizations is applicable to criminal as well as to civil statutes. 5 U.S.C.A. § 907(a).

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Before BROWN, Chief Judge, and THORNBERRY and AINSWORTH, Circuit Judges.

AINSWORTH, Circuit Judge:

The question presented for decision is whether an indictment charging assault of an officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration is fatally defective because the pertinent statutes, though they encompass assaults on "any officer or employee of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs," do not specifically refer to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the successor in the Department of Justice to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Defendants Keith Stanford Irick, David Paul Kay, Richard Neil Myers, and Joseph Edwin Peel were named in an indictment which charged that on or about August 27, 1973, they "wilfully and by use of a deadly and dangerous weapon, that is, a bayonet, did forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, and interfere with . . . a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice while [he] was engaged in the performance of his official duties." The indictment charged violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 111 and 2.[1]

Section 111 of Title 18, United States Code, prohibits, ***inter alia***, the forcible assault, intimidation, or interference with "any person designated in [18 U.S.C. § 1114] while engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties . . ."[2] Section 1114 designates several categories of federal officers and employees. Among the categories designated is the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the predecessor in the Department of Justice of the Drug Enforcement Administration.[3]

The Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973. 1973 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin.News 3554. The plan became effec-

tive without congressional action on July 1, 1973, as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 906(a); and on July 10, 1973, pursuant to Executive Order 11727, dated July 6, 1973, the Attorney General transferred the functions of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs to the Drug Enforcement Administration by amending the Code of Federal Regulations, 38 Fed. Reg. 18380.[4] Thus, as the district court found, "the Drug Enforcement Administration, its officers and employees, are the successors to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, its officers and employees in function and authority." Section 1114, however, was not amended to reflect this changeover from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In the court below, each of the defendants moved to dismiss the indictment for failure to charge an offense on the ground that agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration are not within the categories designated under 18 U.S.C. § 1114 and, thus, assaults on such agents are not encompassed by 18 U.S.C. § 111. Notwithstanding its finding that the Drug Enforcement Administration is the successor to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the district court held that section 111 does not apply to assaults on Drug Enforcement Administration agents because Congress failed to amend section 1114 to substitute the Drug Enforcement Administration for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. Concluding that section 1114 "applies only to those departments, agencies, and bureaus specifically named therein," the court granted defendants' motions and ordered the indictment dismissed. The Government appeals pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3731.[5]

[1] The district court's memorandum and order concluding that the indictment should be dismissed omits reference to 5 U.S.C. § 907(a), enacted September 6, 1966.[6] Section 907(a), which provides for continuity of status and function in connection with executive reorganizations, controls the issues presented. It reads in full:

> § 907. Effect on other laws, pending legal proceedings, and unexpended appropriations.
>
> (a) ***A statute enacted***, and a regulation or other action made, prescribed, issued, granted, or performed in respect of or by an agency or function affected by a

reorganization under this chapter, ***before the effective date of the reorganization, has except to the extent rescended, modified, superceded, or made inapplicable by or under authority of law or by the abolition of a function, the same effect as if the reorganization had not been made.*** However, if the statute, regulation, or other action has vested the functions in the agency from which it is removed under the reorganization plan, the function insofar as it is to be exercised after the plan becomes effective, shall be deemed as vested in the agency under which the function is placed by the plan.

(Emphasis added.)

The section's legislative history reflects the clear meaning of the statutory language, that is, the desire of Congress not to leave a hiatus in existing law when a reorganization has taken place. A House Report on the 1949 Reorganization Act, the predecessor of the 1966 reorganization statute, explains that section 907 "contains saving provisions with respect to the status, after a reorganization, of statutory provisions, regulations, and other actions, and suits and other proceedings, having a relation to any agency or function affected by such reorganization." H.R.Rep. No. 23, 82st Cong., 1st Sess., 1949 U.S.Code Cong.Serv. 1391. In addition, a House Report commenting on a similar saving clause in the original Reorganization Act of 1939 noted that the saving clause "provides for the survival of . . . laws in connection with reorganization." H.P.Rep. No. 120, 76th Cong., 1st Sess., 6 (1939).

Basically, when a reorganization takes place, section 907(a) continues in effect laws existing prior to the reorganization. Any statute relating to an agency and enacted before the effective date of the reorganization of that agency has the same effect as if there had been no reorganization. Thus, special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration fall within the ambit of section 111, by virtue of the provisions of section 1114, in the same manner as did the special agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

[2] On appeal, defendants pose four basic arguments as militating against the application of section 907(a) to their situation. First, they assert that Congress has at times amended 18 U.S.C. § 1114 to reflect changes caused by re-

organizations. They refer specifically to the amendment by Congress, as part of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, of section 1114 to substitute the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in the Department of Justice for its predecessor, the Bureau of Narcotics in the Treasury Department. 1970 U.S.Code Cong. & Admin. News 1492, § 701(i)(1), Pub.L. 91–513, 84 Stat.1236. We do not view this as evidence of congressional intent that an amendment of 18 U.S.C. § 1114 was a precondition to the coverage of agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, to the disregard of 5 U.S.C. § 907(a). No such implication can be garnered from the legislative history of the Act.[7] The provision amending section 1114 was merely one provision of a general statutory program designed to deal with drug abuse; and the amendment came almost two years after the creation of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, *see* Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1968, 1968 U.S.Code Cong. & Admin. News 4734. The hearings on the creation of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, moreover, indicate that amendment of section 1114 was not deemed necessary to the continued coverage of that Bureau's officers. *See* Hearings Before a House Subcomm. on Government Operations, 90th Cong., 2d Sess., at 64 (1968).[8] Indeed, it would ignore the impact of 5 U.S.C. § 907(a) to hold that because Congress has on previous occasions made a conforming amendment to section 1114 it must do so to protect federal agents in reorganization situations.

[3, 4] Defendants also assert, in a vague way, that there is a constitutional impediment to the inclusion of Drug Enforcement officers and agents within the coverage of section 1114. We perceive no such problem. We note, moreover, that it is not an element of a section 111 offense that the person who commits one of the proscribed acts does so with the knowledge that his victim is a federal officer, *see e. g.*, United States v. Davis, 5 Cir., 1970, 423 F.2d 974, 975 n. 1, cert. denied, 400 U.S. 836, 91 S.Ct. 74, 27 L.Ed. 2d 69; United States v. Marcello, 5 Cir., 1970, 423 F.2d 993, 1010, cert. denied, 398 U.S. 959, 90 S.Ct. 2172, 26 L.Ed.2d 543; Burke v. United States, 5 Cir., 1968, 400 F.2d 866, 868, cert. denied, 395 U.S. 919, 89 S.Ct. 1771, 23 L.Ed.2d 237 (1969); United States v. Langone, 1 Cir., 1971, 445 F.2d 636, cert. denied, 404 U.S. 915, 92 S.Ct.

226, 30 L.Ed.2d 189; United States v. Goodwin, 3 Cir., 1971, 440 F.2d 1152, 1155; United States v. James, 9 Cir., 1972, 464 F.2d 1228, 1230, cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1086, 93 S.Ct. 697, 34 L.Ed.2d 123;[9] and it is certainly not an element of a section 111 offense that the defendant know the specific name of the agency by which his victim is employed. "[W]hat little legislative history does exist indicates only that Congress intended to create a federal forum for the enumerated offenses instead of having to rely upon state and local courts for the protection of federal officers." United States v. Goodwin, *supra*, 440 F.2d at 1155; *see* Ladner v. United States, 358 U.S. 169, 174 n. 3, 79 S.Ct. 209, 212 n. 3, 3 L.Ed.2d 199 (1958) (Letter of January 3, 1934, from Homer Cummings, Attorney General, to Senator Ashurst, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary). *See also* United States v. Langone, *supra*, 445 F.2d at 637. Given the existence of 5 U.S.C. § 907(a) at the time of the occurrence of the assault in this case, as well as the fact that for conviction under section 111 a defendant need not have knowledge of the official status of his victim, no constitutional impediment can be claimed in the reorganization statute's application to these defendants.

[5] Defendants also place reliance on the doctrine that penal statues must be construed strictly and contend that a strict reading of section 1114 requires that it apply only to those agencies specifically named therein. The strict construction concept does not, however, require that other pertinent statutes, in this case section 907(a), be disregarded. Furthermore, the doctrine is grounded in the principle that persons accused of a crime must be afforded fair warning of the prohibited conduct. *See, e. g.*, United States v. Harriss, 347 U.S. 612, 617, 74 S.Ct. 808, 812, 98 L.Ed. 989 (1954); W. La Fave & A. Scott, Jr., Criminal Law 72 (1972). It cannot be validly argued that defendants were not given adequate notice of the prohibited conduct, that is, the assault of a federal officer. Section 907(a) in no way changes the nature of this conduct.

[6] Finally, defendants argue that section 907(a) was intended to apply to civil statutes—not criminal statutes—and to the functions of governmental agencies in reorganizations. We can discern no such restriction of intent, either from the

plain meaning of the statute or from its legislative history.

We have considered all of defendants' assertions and find them to be without merit. We conclude that section 1114 includes the Drug Enforcement Administration in the same manner that it encompassed the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. The indictment, therefore, as it charges an offense under section 111, is not defective.

Reversed.

## FOOTNOTES

* Rule 18, 5 Cir.; *see* Isbell Enterprises, Inc. v. Citizens Casualty Company of New York et al., 5 Cir., 1970, 431 F.2d 409, Part I.

1. 18 U.S.C. § 2 provides:

   § 2. Principals

   (a) Whoever commits an offense against the United States or aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces or procures its commission, is punishable as a principal.

2. 18 U.S.C. § 111 reads in full:

   § 111. Assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees

   Whoever forcibly assaults, resists, opposes, impedes, intimidates or interferes with any person designated in section 1114 of this title while engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties, shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

3. The pertinent text of 18 U.S.C. § 1114 provides:

   § 1114. Protection of officers and employees of the United States

   Whoever kills . . . any officer or employee . . . of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs . . . while engaged in the performance of his official duties . . . shall be punished as provided under sections 1111 and 1112 of this title.

4. A regulation promulgated on July 1, 1973 by the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration used language similar to that of 5 U.S.C. § 907(a):

   All regulations or other action made, prescribed, issued, granted or performed in respect of or by the agencies or functions affected by section 1 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1973 shall, until rescinded, modified, superseded, or made inapplicable, have the same effect as if the reorganization had not been made.

The directive further provides:

Sec. 3. *Enforcement officers*

(a) All criminal investigators . . . are authorized to exercise all of the powers of enforcement personnel granted by 21 U.S.C. 876, 878, 879 . . . .

38 Fed.Reg. 18381.

The special agent who the indictment charges defendants with assaulting is a criminal investigator within the purview of the regulations.

5. 18 U.S.C. § 3731 provides in relevant part:

In a criminal case an appeal by the United States shall lie to a court of appeals from a decision, judgment, or order of a district court dismissing an indictment or information as to any one or more counts, except that no appeal shall lie where the double jeopardy clause of the United States Constitution prohibits further prosecution.

6. The only other decision treating the question presented in this case is United States v. Hasimar, 69 Cr. 58 (S.D.N.Y. May 25, 1970) (unreported), which involved the establishment of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. The court in *Hasimar* disposed of the case in the same manner as the court below; and, like the court below, failed to mention 5 U.S.C. § 907(a).

7. The legislative history is silent on the purpose of the amendment. *See* 1970 U.S.Code Cong. & Admin.News 4566 ff.

8. In response to questions from Congressman Edwards, Phillip S. Hughes, Deputy Director, Bureau of the Budget, and John H. Finlator, Director, Bureau of Drug Abuse Control, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, testified that reorganization would not affect the coverage of employees of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs under 18 U.S.C. § 1114.

9. Defendants do not challenge this principal of law.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FIFTH CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Edward W. Wadsworth
Clerk

600 Camp Street
New Orleans, La. 70130

October 17, 1974

TO ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD

No. 74–1265 U.S.A. V. IRICK, ET AL

Dear Counsel:

This is to advise that an order has this day been entered denying the petition(s)* for rehearing, and no member of the panel nor Judge in regular active service on the Court having requested that the Court be polled on rehearing en banc (Rule 35, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure; Local Fifth Circuit Rule 12) the petition(s) for rehearing en banc has also been denied.

See Rule 41, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure for issuance and stay of the mandate.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD W. WADSWORTH
CLERK

Signed: By Anne G. Parent
Deputy Clerk

cc: Mr. F. Witcher McCullough, III
Mr. William L. Patton
Mr. James R. Gough
Mr. Philip S. Greene
Mr. Harry L. Tindall
Mr. Buddy W. Gregory
Mr. Edward L. Lasof

*As to Richard Neil Myers and Joseph Edwin Peel

CALENDAR NO. 568
73 CONGRESS SENATE REPORT
2d Session No. 535

# PROVIDE PUNISHMENT FOR KILLING OR ASSAULTING FEDERAL OFFICERS

Mar. 20 (calendar day, Mar. 22), 1934.-Ordered to be printed

Mr. Stephens, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 2080]

The Committee on the Judiciary, having had under consideration the bill (S. 2080) to provide punishment for killing or assaulting Federal officers, reports the same favorably to the Senate and recommends that the bill do pass, with the following amendment:

On page 1, line 3, strike out the word "assassinate" and the commas preceding and following said word.

The purpose and need of this legislation are set out in the following letter from the Attorney General to the chairman of this committee.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington, D.C., January 3, 1934.

Hon. HENRY F. ASHURST,
Chairman Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I wish again to renew the recommendation of this Department that legislation be enacted making it a Federal offense forcibly to resist, impede, or interfere with, or to assault or kill, any official or employee of the United States while engaged in, or on account of, the performance of his official duties. Congress has already made

it a Federal offense to assault, resist, etc., officers or employees of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture while engaged in or on account of the execution of their duties (sec. 62, C.C.; sec. 118, title 18, U.S.C.); to assault, resist, etc., officers and others of the Customs and Internal Revenue, while engaged in the execution of their duties (sec. 65, C.C.; sec. 121, title 18, U.S.C.); to assault, resist, beat, wound, etc., any officer of the United States, or other person duly authorized, while serving or attempting to serve the process of any court of the United States (sec. 140, C.C.; sec. 245, title 18, U.S.C.); and to assault, resist, etc., immigration officials or employees while engaged in the performance of their duties (sec. 16, Immigration Act of Feb. 5, 1917, c. 29, 39 Stat. 885; sec. 152, title S. U.S.C.). Three of the statutes just cited impose an increased penalty when a deadly or dangerous weapon is used in resisting the officer or employee.

The need for general legislation of the same character, for the protection of Federal officers and employees other than those specifically embraced in the statutes above cited, becomes increasingly apparent every day. The Federal Government should not be compelled to rely upon the courts of the States, however respectable and well disposed, for the protection of its investigative and law-enforcement personnel; and Congress has recognized this fact at least to the extent indicated by the special acts above cited. This Department has found need for similar legislation for the adequate protection of the special agents of its division of investigation, several of whom have been assaulted in the course of a year, while in the performance of their official duties.

In these cases resort must usually be had to the local police court, which affords but little relief to us, under the circumstances, in our effort to further the legitimate purposes of the Federal Government. It would seem to be preferable, however, instead of further extending the piecemeal legislation now on the statute books, to enact a broad general statute to embrace all proper cases, both within and outside the scope of existing legislation. Other cases in point are assaults on letter carriers, to cover which the Post Office Department has for several years past sought legislation; and the serious wounding, a couple of years ago, of the warden of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth by escaped convicts outside the

Federal jurisdiction. In the latter case it was possible to punish the escaped convicts under Federal law for their escape; but they could not be punished under any Federal law for the shooting of the warden.

I have the honor, therefore, to enclose herewith a copy of S. 3184, which was introduced at the request of this Department in the Seventy-second Congress and to urge its reintroduction in the present Congress; and to express the hope that it may receive the prompt and serious consideration of your committee.

Respectfully,

HOMER CUMMINGS,
Attorney General.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
73 CONGRESS REPORT
2d Session No. 1593

# PROVIDE PUNISHMENT FOR KILLING AND ASSAULTING FEDERAL OFFICERS

May 11, 1934.-Ordered to be printed

Mr. Sumners of Texas, from the committee of conference, submitted the following,

## CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 2080]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 2080) to provide punishment for killing or assaulting Federal officers having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House numbered 2; and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 1:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Page 1 line 3 of the Senate bill strike out the words "murder or otherwise," and in lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment insert the following: ***kill, as defined in sections 273 and 274 of the Criminal Code, any United States marshal or deputy United States marshal, special agent of the Division of Investigation of the Department of Justice, post-office inspector, secret-service operative, any officer or enlisted man of the Coast Guard, any employee of any United States penal or correctional institution, any officer of the customs or of the internal revenue, any immigrant inspector or any immigration patrol inspector, while***; and the House agree to the same.

Hatton W. Sumners
A. J. Montague
Tom D. McKeown
Randolph Perkins
*Managers on the part of the House.*

Henry F. Ashurst
William H. King
Wm. E. Borar
*Managers on the part of the Senate.*

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (S. 2080), to provide punishment for killing or assaulting Federal officers, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

Amendment no. 1: The Senate bill included by its terms all officers and employees of the United States. The House amendment limited its terms to "any United States marshal or deputy United States marshal, special agent of the Division of Investigation of the Department of Justice, post-office inspector, secret-service operative, any officer or enlisted man of the Coast Guard, or any employee of any United States penal or correctional institution." The Senate accepted the House amendment with the inclusion of officers of the customs, of the internal revenue, immigrant inspectors, and immigration patrol inspectors.

Amendment no. 2 of the House is a formal amendment made necessary by the adoption of amendment no. 1. The Senate receded.

Hatton W. Sumners
A. J. Montague
Tom D. McKeown
*Managers on the part of the House.*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V 69 CR. 58

FRANK HASIMAR AND

GENE HASIMAR, DEFENDANTS

## MEMORANDUM

BONSAL, D. J.

A Grand Jury indictment charges that on or about January 10, 1969 the defendants assaulted three Special Agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs while they were engaged in the performance of their official duties. The indictment is based on Title 18, United States Code, §§ 111 and 1114. Section 111 makes it a crime to assault any person *designated* in § 1114 while engaged in the performance of his official duties. Section 1114 designates various officers and employees of the United States.

Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1968 (28 U.S.C.A. § 309), which became effective on April 8, 1968, established in the Department of Justice a new bureau, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and transferred to it the functions previously carried on by the Bureau of Narcotics in the Treasury Department, and by the Bureau of Drug Abuse Control in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Section 4 of the Reorganization Plan abolished the Bureau of Narcotics in the Department of the Treasury.

Defendants move to dismiss the indictment on the ground that on the date of the alleged assault Special Agents of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs were not designated officers or employees under § 1114 and therefore § 111 does not apply. Defendants therefore take the position that the alleged assault, even if it occurred, was not a crime under § 111.

The government conceded at argument that the Agents named in the indictment had been Agents of the old Bureau of Narcotics and not designees of the Secretary of H.E.W. in the old Bureau of Drug Abuse Control. The government

contends, however, that the Reorganization Plan was merely a merger within the Department of Justice of functions previously carried on in the Treasury Department and in H.E.W., and that it was the intention of Congress to afford the same protection to the Agents of the new Bureau that they had previously enjoyed.

Section 111, being a criminal statute, must be strictly construed, ***United States*** v. ***Resnick***, 299 U.S. 207 (1936). Strictly construed, § 111 applies only to Federal officers designated in § 1114. Turning to § 1114, the only applicable provision is "any officer or employee . . . of the Bureau of Narcotics." At the time of the assault alleged in the indictment, the Bureau of Narcotics had been abolished.

While the Congress undoubtedly intended to have the provisions of § 1114 apply to officers and employees of the newly created Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, it failed to do so. Therefore, at the time of the alleged assault, the Agents were not designated employees under § 1114, and the indictment does not state a crime under § 111.

Accordingly, the defendants' motion to dismiss the indictment is reluctantly granted. It is hoped that the government will take a prompt appeal, and, perhaps more importantly, that the Congress will take prompt action to amend § 1114 to specifically designate officers and employees of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

Settle order.

SIGNED: DUDLEY B. BONSAL
U.S.D.J.

DATED: New York, N.Y.
May 25, 1970

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS**
**For the Fifth Circuit**

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October Term, 1973

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No. 74-1265
Summary Calendar

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D. C. Docket No. CR-73-H-376

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellant,
versus
KEITH STANFORD IRICK, et al.,
Defendants-Appellees.

*Appeal from the United States District Court for the*
Southern District of Texas

Before
**BROWN, Chief Judge, and THORNBERRY and AINSWORTH, Circuit Judges.**

**JUDGMENT**

This cause came on to be heard on the transcript of the record from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, and was taken under submission by the Court upon the record and briefs on file, pursuant to Rule 18;

ON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, It is now here ordered and adjudged by this Court that the judgment of the said District Court in this cause be, and the same is hereby, reversed.

August 5, 1974

Issued as Mandate: August 27, 1974

AS TO Keith Stanford Irick and David Paul Kay ONLY